



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



APRIL 2024

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

N84 W16707 Menomonee Avenue, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 ✧ 262-251-3830 ✧ www.ec-umc.com

MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com



FUNDRAISER FOR R&R PLAYGROUND

to support a safe, educational, and exciting new playspace at Rooted & Rising!

When: April 21-May 12

Why: The Missions Team is proud to be a longtime supporter of Rooted & Rising (formerly United Methodist Children's Services). R&R offers more than just housing and food assistance to the residents of Washington Park.

It also has a wonderful early childhood education program, The Growing Tree Children's Center, which serves families throughout the city.

The current outdoor play space is run down and desperately in need of repairs and upgrades. The plan is to construct a new outdoor educational space that will incorporate multiple interactive play areas, materials inclusive to all abilities, and natural landscaping. The vision is to have children enjoy the outside for multiple hours each day in a safe learning environment. Not surprisingly, all this work comes with a hefty price tag!



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How can I help? Come to our **April 21 kick-off Sunday brunch at 10:45 AM** for more details.

There will be a speaker from Rooted & Rising and activities for the kids. Mark your calendars now!

Additional dates to save:

April 27- Community Breakfast with more detailed playspace information

May 5- Appreciation Dessert Sunday to celebrate our fundraising efforts

Questions? Please contact Bonny Walters:

bonny3walters@gmail.com

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

Easter is arguably the most important holy day for Christians. But what about other religions? Does Hinduism have holy days? What about Buddhism? How about the religions we share roots with – do we share any holidays with Jews or Muslims? Using Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions*, a 4-week study will be offered on the four Sundays of April at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Doubtless you already know people who follow another religious faith. Maybe we can love our neighbor better if we understand them better.

For each religion we'll discuss:

What are its primary beliefs and traditions?

At what points does Christianity find common ground with that faith? Where does it differ?

What can a Christian learn from another religion?

Each week we'll enjoy a snack from the culture as well!

Books are available in the church office (\$10) or from online stores (new or used).

April 7 – Hinduism

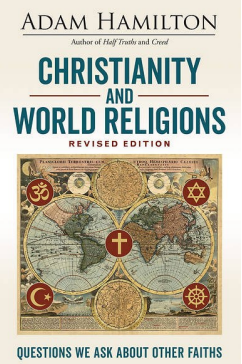
April 14 – Buddhism

April 21 – Judaism

April 28 – Islam

Sign up on the bulletin board or

contact Janet Ray (JanetR@ec-umc.com.)



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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Contact: Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

“April Showers Bring May Flowers”

I have fond memories of my mother saying those words to me every April day when my outdoor plans were ruined because of rain. For some reason, this year I find myself reflecting on their origin and deeper meaning. The saying originated all the way back in 1157, in the form of a short poem written by Thomas Tusser. The poem can be found in the April section of a collection of his writings titled, “A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry.” The poem goes as follows: “Sweet April showers do spring May flowers.”

The Bible states, ***“I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”*** (Leviticus 26:4) As Eastertide and April arrive, we welcome the promise of spring with open arms. The saying "April showers bring May flowers" serves as a gentle reminder of the cycles of nature and the hope it carries. Just as the rain nourishes the earth, bringing life to dormant seeds, so too can our lives be rejuvenated through moments of challenge and growth.

In the natural world, April showers are essential for the blossoming of new life. The rain penetrates the soil, providing vital nutrients for plants to thrive. Similarly, in our lives, challenges and setbacks can serve as the catalysts for personal growth and transformation. Just as the rain softens the earth, making it more receptive to growth, adversity can soften our hearts and minds, making us more open to change and development.

It's important to remember that every raindrop that falls in April is a necessary part of the process, just as every trial we face contributes to our journey. Instead of lamenting the storms, we can choose to see them as opportunities for renewal and rebirth. Like the flowers that bloom in May, we too can emerge from difficult times stronger and more resilient than before.

As we move through April and into May, let us embrace the spirit of growth and renewal. Let us cultivate a mindset of resilience, knowing that even the darkest storms eventually give way to brighter days. And let us take comfort in the knowledge that just as April showers bring May flowers, so too can the challenges we face lead to beautiful new beginnings.

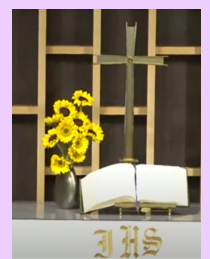
In this season of transition, may we find inspiration in the beauty of nature and the endless possibilities for growth that surround us. May we nurture the seeds of hope within our hearts, trusting that with patience and perseverance, we will bloom and flourish in our own time.

With Hope,
Pastor Matt



HELP BEAUTIFY OUR WORSHIP SPACES

Flower arrangement donors are needed to provide fresh flowers for the altars on Sundays. What a great way to celebrate an occasion, honor a loved one or just because. After your arrangement is enjoyed during Sanctuary worship, it will be moved to the Celebration service. Please sign up on the flower chart that hangs on a pillar in the Narthex. The arrangement should be placed on the Sanctuary altar by 8:20 AM (or earlier) on Sunday. Flowers may be picked up after the Celebration service, sometime during the following week or left at the church for the enjoyment of visitors and staff. Please consider being a flower donor. Questions? Contact Mary Dambekaln at dambekaln@charter.net.



FROM PASTOR MATT AND SPRC:

We are announcing an upcoming staffing change.

Ethan Hletko joined our staff in November of 2022. As a fresh college graduate, he enthusiastically joined our ministry efforts here at ECUMC. He jumped on board and filled a combined role of leading Celebration Worship and Children's Ministries. His passion for sharing God's message and his eagerness to make a difference is apparent every Sunday.

Ethan has recently reflected on his next steps in ministry and has been openly discussing this with Pastor Matt. Ethan has determined that his path will soon take him to a new church and ministry, but will not be focused on Children's Ministries. He is actively interviewing and is close to landing his next opportunity. We very much appreciate his open and honest approach to this change.

He has formally resigned and his last day with us will be Wednesday, 4/3. Please join us in sharing gratitude for Ethan's efforts at ECUMC. We wish him well and know that his call to ministry will lead him to a role where he will continue to share God's message of love to the world.

As is customary, we will collect a Love Offering for Ethan. These can be submitted in the Sunday offering or sent to the office. If you would like to contribute, please note "Love Offering" in the memo of your payment. SPRC has reviewed our church's needs and will be starting a search immediately for a Director of Children's Ministries. This position will be dedicated to supporting Sunday School, the Nursery, VBS and other children's programming. It is budgeted for up to 30 hours per week. It will not have responsibility for the 9:45 worship service. Staff will cover this in the interim.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in this role, or have connections to offer, please refer those to Pastor Matt.



Job Description: *ECUMC Children's Ministries Director Responsibilities and Duties*

Exempt Status: Exempt- 30 hours per week

Reporting Relationship: Reports to the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor will provide an annual review. Staff Parish Relations will provide a liaison.

Purpose: The Children's Ministries Director (CMD) is a vital role within our growing congregation, setting the Christian education pathway for our youngest members.

Major Duties and Responsibilities: The Children's Ministries Director (CMD) attends weekly staff meetings, monthly Church Council Meetings, and monthly Program/Ministry Team meetings, keeping staff and program team members apprised of Education topics and events. Attend other meetings as requested.

The CMD submits weekly items relating to Children's Ministries for *Community News* and monthly articles, schedules, and reports to *Pathways*.

Responsible for the following areas within Children's Ministries:

- **Budget:** Manage annual budget set forth by the Finance Committee and reconcile Credit Card statements for all programs pertaining to Children's Ministries programming.
- **Childcare in the Nursery:** Ensures Nursery is staffed appropriately, according to our Safe Sanctuary Policy and conference expectations, which includes Sundays, Wednesday evenings as needed for special worship services and classes. Supervises Nursery Coordinator(s); Orders supplies for rooms; makes sure rooms are sanitized, safe, organized, and visually appealing.
- **Jesus' PLACE (preschool):** Sunday mornings. Recruits and trains teachers and substitute teachers; writes lesson plans and purchases supplies; keeps room stocked with teaching supplies and safe, age-appropriate toys.

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- **K-5 Sunday School:** Sunday mornings. Prepares and writes detailed lesson plans for workshops offered. Provides training materials and meetings for all teachers and shepherds. Recruits all teachers, shepherds, and substitutes for Sunday School. Encourages involvement of parents, grandparents, and all congregation members by speaking to individuals and church groups. After recruiting and training teachers and shepherds following the guidelines set forth in the Safe Sanctuary Policy, the CMD provides all materials necessary to teach in each zone (videos, software, art supplies, food items, books, etc.) so that teachers have little preparation outside of class. Keeps classrooms orderly, well stocked, and visually appealing. Teachers receive an outline of the lesson plan from the CMD to review several days before the Sunday in which they are teaching, so that they have the opportunity to be as prepared as possible.
- **Club 4/5:** Organize volunteers to lead monthly, two-hour fellowship events for children in 4th and 5th grade.
- **Youth and High School Sunday School** – partners with volunteers to ensure a robust, meaningful, age-appropriate Sunday School learning environment for middle school and high school students. This typically includes curriculum support, idea generation, and coordination of weekly teachers.
- **Summer Programming:** All ages, June through August
 - ◆ Summer Intergenerational Events
 - ◆ Vacation Bible School: Intergenerational program with activities aimed at preschool through Adult. Prepares curriculum/activities, advertises, and coordinates volunteers for outreach ministry.
- **Busy Hands Bags:** Places station in Narthex for worship on Sunday mornings. Finds volunteers to maintain station by keeping it neat and well stocked. Provides safe, quiet, and age-appropriate activities for young children's use during worship.
- **Acolytes:** Schedule and train acolytes worship service September through May. Keeps robes dry cleaned and tapers in good condition.
- **Attendance Statistics:** Provide accurate attendance statistics to the Conference annually.
- **Children's Ministries Team:** Lead monthly meetings. Work with Team to plan and organize special events such as Sundaes Sunday, Bible Presentation Sunday, Fall Kick-Off, Teacher Training, Teacher Appreciation Event, and children's mission projects. Encourage other to take a leadership role on the Team.
- **Cradle Roll:** Provide resources and materials for Cradle Roll volunteer.
- **Miscellaneous Items:** Available at church weekdays and evenings as needed to meet with parents, teachers, members, etc. Provide community support by giving tours, leading workshops, and providing start up information to other churches wishing to begin a Workshop Rotation Model program in their churches. Provide resources to pastors from other churches, upon request, to benefit their Children's Ministries programs.

Training/Experience Required

This position requires knowledge of stages of child development and the ability to research, select, prepare and/or write curriculum appropriate to each age group which follows the teachings of the United Methodist Church. One must be organized and able to work on several programs at one time. Must be comfortable leading both adults and children and able to recruit volunteer support and delegate responsibilities appropriately. Proficiency on office equipment (Copier, Computer, Telephone) including Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Powerpoint, and the internet and online meetings is necessary.

Keeps up to date on Christian education training and issues by attending workshops, reading journals, publications, and resource books, and conducting internet research on child development and The Workshop Rotation Model and its use in other churches.

Revised 3/21/2024

MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com

PRODUCE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

The Falls Area Food Pantry is requesting donations of fresh produce to help supplement the shelf stable food given to clients. Fresh fruits and vegetables help reduce risk factors that are associated with an inadequate diet.

Please consider donating produce for those in our community who can greatly benefit from your generosity.

Produce not needing refrigeration (e.g. potatoes, onions, bananas, apples, tomatoes) can be dropped off at the pantry 24/7 Monday thru Wednesday in the unlocked foyer. Produce needing refrigeration (e.g. carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, peppers, celery, lettuce/bagged salads, grapes, berries, peaches), should be dropped off when staff is on hand at the pantry (Tues/Thurs 11 AM-2 PM and 4:30-7 PM).



The Pantry always welcomes your donations of nonperishable food as well, especially cereal, peanut butter, jelly. You can drop items off any day/time in the pantry's unlocked foyer or in the marked bin in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like more information on this or on volunteering needs at the pantry, please call Barb Kumrow, ECUMC volunteer coordinator for the FAFP, at 262-251-5949 or email

BarbKumrow@yahoo.com

Thank you for your continued support!

YAHAS: YOUNG AT HEART & SPIRIT

Contact: Dorothy Nienow (262-251-5049)

The YAHAS will meet for lunch and a program on Tuesday, April 16. Watch for details.



CHURCH OFFICE

262-251-3830 Church@ec-umc.com

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

Closed Monday, April 1

ECUMC ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Doug Walters; Doug3Walters@gmail.com

On Saturday, May 18, from 10 AM to noon, ECUMC, in conjunction with Redemption Recycling, will host an electronics recycling event in the ECUMC parking lot.



Our congregation and the greater Menomonee Falls community are invited to participate in this opportunity to keep harmful materials out of landfills while getting rid of unwanted or unusable electronic items.

Please alert your friends and neighbors; anyone can drive though and drop off their items.

Please consider volunteering to direct traffic, unload vehicles, or hand out brochures about ECUMC. We'll be setting up traffic cones and collection tables around 9 AM and breaking it all down afterwards. If you can help with any of this, please tell any Green Team member or send an email to the church office.

Here are some collection guidelines:

Free Items

- Computers – monitors – laptops – cords – printers – routers – switches
- Small electronic household appliances (blenders, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers)
- DVD/CD players – radios – speakers
- Cell phones – tablets – chargers
- Flat screen TV (not plasma)
- Christmas lights
- Other electronic devices that run on electricity or batteries

Fee-required Items

- CRT TVs and monitors (old tube style) (extra charge for broken CRT glass) \$10
- Dehumidifiers, minifridges, microwaves \$10
- Wood console, Projection, and Plasma TVs \$20
- Alkaline batteries \$1/pound
- Florescent bulbs, 4 ft and smaller \$1
- LED light bulbs and fluorescent bulbs 4 ft+ \$2

Items Not Accepted

- AC units, large appliances
- Paints, oils
- Tires
- Hazardous materials



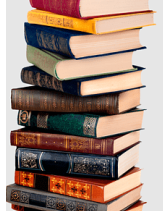
BOOKS BETWEEN BITES

Contact: Mary Jo Karnath; AKarnath@wi.rr.com

The April 19 book will be "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

We will meet at Ally's at 1:00 PM for lunch.

The evening group will meet at UNO's at 5:30 PM on April 23.



ATTENTION OLD-SCHOOL "GAMERS"

The Game Night Group will be meeting on Friday, 4/19. Come to Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM with your own beverage (water is available) and a snack to share.

Bring a game if you want or just join in playing cards, Mexican Train dominoes, or a variety of board games.



New participants are always welcome!
RSVP to Beth Kring (KringBeth1@gmail.com)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Contact: Ethan Hletko; EthanH@ec-umc.com

Join in the fellowship with children's ministries!

Our notable events coming up:

April 19: Bingo and pizza, 5:30-7 PM

May 5: Kids craft morning after the second service

Info about this Vacation Bible School will be coming out soon, so keep watching our pages!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact: Bill Follmann; BillF@ec-umc.com

Thank you to all who participated in the Confirmation retreat and Game Night in March.

Upcoming Events are:

Confirmation Sunday - Sunday, April 14

Two Confirmands will present their faith statement and be confirmed at the 8:30 Sanctuary service. There will be a reception for them immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall (9:30 to 11:00 AM)



Campus Trip - Sunday, April 21

Grades 8-12 are going to Madison to learn about campus ministry. *How can you still be involved in church during your college years?* The exact timing is

yet to be finalized, but, we are looking forward to leave Emmanuel about 12:30 PM and arrive back about 6:30 PM. Look for more details to come to parents via e-mail.

Graduation reception - Sunday, June 9

Come and mingle with our graduating seniors and find out what their plans are for the future. Enjoy some cupcakes and refreshments in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 11:00 AM as we celebrate this milestone with the students and their families.

Other - We are planning a couple of outdoor impromptu outings / campfires / 9 Square outside, etc. for May so watch your e-mail and weekly eNews for when these are scheduled.

Summer Mission Trip - We are

looking to go to Indianapolis, Indiana the week of July 28 - August 3. We are partnering with Youthworks and are looking forward to working with other youth and agencies in

Indianapolis to help those in need. We have two chaperones already lined up for the week, we just need students to go. Please let me know by May 15 if you are interested in this mission opportunity.

Camping - Yes, we are going camping. Youth ministries are again sponsoring a camping weekend, Thursday, August 15, through Sunday morning, August 18, for **all families of all ages**, who enjoy camping. We are camping at the Wildwood campsite area at the Methodist Pine Lake camp. This is a separate area from the retreat area, but each campsite will have electricity and water.

Available for us to use is a swimming area, boats, and canoes to rent, picnic tables, firepits, children's play area, volleyball court showers, and shelter for group activities. There is a dump station for campers. This is a great opportunity to experience God's wonderful creation and spend time with others from Emmanuel. Let Bill know ASAP if you can come camping. Cost for a site per night is \$30 but Youth Ministries will cover ½ the cost, making it only \$15 per night for your family. A summer vacation bargain! Please let Bill know if you interested in this event by June 1 as reservations will need to be confirmed by then for August.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Bill know: BillF@ec-umc or Bill's cell 414-881-3023.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Contact: Karen Norz; KNorz@wi.rr.com

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY



Our next study begins after Easter and will be a deep dive into the book of James using *Thrive: Living Faithfully in Difficult Times* by Jennifer Cowart.

The six-week study will be 4/10 - 5/15 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Participant books (\$12) are available in the church office or through online vendors. All women are welcome.

SPRING "WALK WITH FAITH"

Join us on a stroll through the Lynden Sculpture Garden (2145 West Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee). The Lynden Sculpture Garden offers a unique experience of art in nature through its collection of more than 50 monumental sculptures sited across park, lake, and woodland.

The date is set for Saturday, May 4, with a rain date of June 1. Carpool from the church at 9:30 AM or join the group at the Garden at 10 AM.

Admittance to the Garden is free; donations are accepted.

There are few paved paths, so wear appropriate footwear, especially if it's rained recently!



STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Anna Thompson; Annabvthomp@gmail.com

Sometimes it flies, sometimes it crawls, but it always passes inexorably. We mark it, save it, waste it, bide it, race against it. We measure it incessantly with a passion for precision that borders on the obsessive. We are obsessed with it; we never seem to have enough of it; and yet scientists don't even know how to explain it. What is it? The answer is time. We never seem to have enough time.

A group of experts once got together to figure out how much time we need to get everything done in one day. How much time for exercise, hygiene, work, commuting, household chores, eating, entertainment, spiritual development, sleep, and family time?

Required? 42 hours a day!

The Psalmist tells us that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In other words, every moment of every second, every second of every minute, every minute of every hour, and every hour of every day is a gift from God.

Unfortunately, in the hustle and bustle of our lives, we forget this.

We may be more stressed out than thankful for the gift of time!

What if we were to get up every morning and thank God and remember that **"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

It wouldn't give us any more time, but maybe our perspective each day would change and we'd appreciate the gift of time a little more.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30am - Sanctuary/Online 10am - Sanctuary/Online (S) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	1 Office Closed	2 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	3 9am - Staff Meeting (FH) 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	4	5 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	6 11am - Celebration of Life -
7 8:30am - Sanctuary/Online 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 9:45am - Celebration /Online 11am - World Religion Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	8 9:30am - Sews & Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 7pm - Finance (CL)	9 6:30pm - Children Ministry 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:45pm - Wolf Den Club 7pm - Women Study (FH)	11 St. James - Meal (Clean-up) 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	12 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	13
14 8:30am - Sanctuary/Online 8:30am - Confirmation 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 9:30am - Confirmation 9:45am - Celebration /Online 11am - World Religion Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	15 Pathways Deadline by Noon 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	16 9:30am - Community Care 11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR) 7:30pm - SPRC (CL)	17 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women Study (FH)	18 10:30am - Spiritual Guidance 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	19 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 1pm - Books Between Bites 5:30pm - Bingo and Pizza 7pm - Game Night (FH)	20 9am - Craft Morning (FH)
21 8:30am - Sanctuary/Online 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 9:45am - Celebration /Online 10:45am - R&R Fundraiser 11am - World Religion Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	22 9am - Offertory Counting 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	23 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	24 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women Study (FH)	25 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	26 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	27 8am - Community Breakfast
28 8:30am - Sanctuary/Online 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 9:45am - Celebration /Online 11am - World Religion Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	29 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	30 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	1 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL) 7pm - Women Study (FH)	2 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	3 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	4